CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1   1.   A system for extracting an embedded audio file from an image file,

2   comprising:

3   a software code segment for extracting an audio file embedded in an image file;

4   a memory for storing the extracted audio file; and

5   a software code segment for associating the extracted audio file with the image

6   file.

1   2.   The system of claim 1, wherein the extracted audio file and the image file

2   are attached to an email message.

1   3.   The system of claim 2, wherein the extracted audio file and the image file

2   are represented in the email message by separate icons.

1   4.   The system of claim 1, wherein the image file is compressed.

1   5.   The system of claim 1, wherein the software code segment for extracting

2   the embedded audio file analyzes the image file for a marker representing the embedded

3   audio file.

1   6.   The system of claim 1, wherein the extracted audio file and the image file

2   are separately executable.

1   7.   A method for allowing a recipient of an electronic mail message to play

2 an audio file embedded in an image file, comprising:

3   providing an image file having an embedded audio file;

4   extracting the embedded audio file;

5   storing the extracted audio file; and

6   associating the extracted audio file with the image file.

1   8.   The method of claim 7, further comprising attaching the extracted audio

2 file and the image file to an email message.

1   9.   The method of claim 8, further comprising representing the extracted

2 audio file and the image file using separate icons.

1   10.   The method of claim 7, further comprising compressing the image file

1   11.   The method of claim 7, further comprising extracting the embedded

2 audio file by analyzing the image file for a marker representing the embedded audio file.

1   12   The method of claim 7, wherein the extracted audio file and the image

2 file are separately executable.

1   13.   A system for allowing a recipient of an electronic mail message to play an

2   audio file embedded in an image file, comprising:

3   means for providing an image file having an embedded audio file;

4   means for extracting the embedded audio file;

5   means for storing the extracted audio file; and

6   means for associating the extracted audio file with the image file.

1   14.   The system of claim 13, further comprising means for attaching the

2   extracted audio file and the image file to an email message.

1   15.   The system of claim 14, further comprising means for representing the

2   extracted audio file and the image file using separate icons.

1   16.   The system of claim 13, further comprising means for compressing the

2   image file.

1   17.   The system of claim 13, further comprising means for extracting the

2   embedded audio file by analyzing the image file for a marker representing the embedded

3   audio file.

1   18.   The system of claim 13, further comprising means for separately

2   executing the extracted audio file and the image file.